

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

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R 121230Z NOV 74

FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4171

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 0761

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SF

SUBJECT: REACTION TO PRIME MINISTER'S CRC SPEECH

REF: CAPE TOWN 0740

SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER'S CRC ADDRESS HAS LEFT COLORED POLITICAL LEADERSHIP DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED AND HAS WEAKENED EFFECTIVENESS OF THOSE COLORED LEADERS WHO HAVE STOOD FOR RESOLUTION OF THEIR COMMUNITY'S FUTURE WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF GOVERNMENT'S TRADITIONAL POLICY. CRC OPPOSITION LEADER LEON HAS INTRODUCED MOTION OF NO-CONFIDENCE THAT MAY LEAD TO SECOND PROROGATION OF COUNCIL. END SUMMARY.

1. LABOR PARTY LEADER, SONNY LEON, HAS REACTED SHARPLY TO PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH AT COLOURED PERSONS REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (REFTEL). IN PRESS STATEMENTS IMMEDIATELY AFTER NOVEMBER 8 CRC MEETING HE SAID PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH CAME AS BITTER DISAPPOINTMENT IN THAT IT OFFERED NOTHING NEW TO COLORED PEOPLE WHO WILL REMAIN SECOND CLASS CITIZENS IN LAND OF THEIR BIRTH. HE WARNED THAT AS A RESULT OF PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH COL-
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ORDS HAD BECOME COMPLETELY ALIENATED FROM WHITES; THAT

CROSSROADS IN WHITE-COLORED RELATIONS HAD BEEN REACHED; AND THAT COLOREDS WOULD NO LONGER ACCEPT "HOLLOW PROMISES OF WHITES".

LEON SAW CONTRADICTIONS BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH AND OCTOBER 24 UN SPEECH OF AMBASSADOR BOTHA WHO HAD THUS BEEN PLACED IN EMBARRASSING POSITION IN REPLYING TO CRITICS OF SOUTH AFRICA.

2. ON SAME DAY, LEON TABLED MOTION OF NO-CONFIDENCE IN CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF CRC'S EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND IN GOVERNMENT'S SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT POLICY, ANTICIPATING REPEAT OF EVENTS LAST JULY WHEN SIMILAR MOTION FORCED PROROGATION OF CRC (CAPE TOWN 0383).

3. DURING MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASUM, NOVEMBER 9, LEON AND HIS DEPUTY CURRY RESTATED THEIR DISAPPOINTMENT, ALTHOUGH IN MORE MODERATED BUT NONETHELESS FORCEFUL TONES, AND SAID THAT PRIME MINISTER HAD UNDONE WHAT LITTLE HAD BEEN ACHIEVED IN BETTERING RACE RELATIONS, AS RESULT OF WHICH "WE ARE BACK TO SQUARE ONE". THEY DWELT ON INJUSTICE OF DENYING RIGHTS OF CITIZENSHIP TO COLOREDS "IN LAND OF OUR BIRTH" WHILE EVERY IMMIGRANT IS GIVEN THOSE RIGHTS AFTER FIVE YEARS IN THE COUNTRY. THEY ALSO CRITICIZED TRIPLE VETO OF UNSC MOVE TO EXPEL SOUTH AFRICA AND URGED USG NOT TO BE BLUFFED BY WHAT AMBASSADOR BOTHA HAD SAID IN UN. THEY CLAIMED PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH HAD SHOWN THAT AS FAR AS GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED, SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT (READ RACISM) IS HERE TO STAY.

4. INITIALLY, FEDERAL PARTY LEADER AND CHAIRMAN OF CRC EXECUTIVE, TOM SWARTZ, ENDEAVORED TO AVOID ISSUES RAISED BY PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH, STATING THAT HE HAD TO STUDY IT BEFORE COMMENTING. HOWEVER, HIS SON, PETER (WHO IS SECRETARY OF PARTY) TOLD PRESS SPEECH WAS LETDOEN FOR COLORED COMMUNITY AND CAME TO HIM AS PERSONAL DISAPPOINTMENT. FURTHER COMMENT BY TOM SWARTZ WAS PRECLUDED WHEN HE WAS SEIZED WITH WHAT WAS DESCRIBED AS A MILD STROKE AND HOSPITALIZED ON NOVEMBER 11, DURING COURSE OF NO-CONFIDENCE DEBATE.

5. PROGRESSIVE PARTY SPOKESMAN TERMED PRIME MINISTER'S CRC SPEECH "A GRAVE
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DISAPPOINTMENT AND A FAILURE" THAT GAVE "NOT ONE SINGLE SIGN" THAT HE INTENDS REDUCING DISCRIMINATORY LAWS AND PRACTICES THAT "CONSTRICT THE COLOURED COMMUNITY AND JEOPARDIZED SOUTH AFRICA'S POSITION IN THE WORLD". UNITED PARTY ISSUED STATEMENT THAT PRIME MINISTER HAD FAILED GIVE ANY MORAL BASIS TO HIS GOVERNMENT'S POLICY AND SHOWED THAT CRC WOULD REMAIN SYMBOL OF FRUSTRATION OF COLORED PEOPLE.

6. NO-CONFIDENCE DEBATE IS PROCEEDING. SITUATION IS COMPLICATED BY INTRODUCTION BY FEDERAL PARTY MEMBERS (BERGINS) OF MOTION EXPRESSING CONFIDENCE IN CRC EXECUTIVE BUT NO-CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENTS'S SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT POLICY.

7. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT LEON'S MOTION WILL SUCCEED. FUTURE POSITION OF TOM SWARTZ IS OBSCURED BY DECLINING EFFECTIVENESS OF HIS LEADERSHIP, HIS ILLNESS, AND GROWING RESTIVENESS WITHIN HIS OWN PARTY (CAPE TOWN A-106). IT IS ALSO CLEAR PRIME MINISTER'S UNWILLINGNESS OR INABILITY TO PROPOSE MORE SIGNIFICANT STEPS FOR COLOREDS (SEE ALSO CAPE TOWN 0688) IS LEADING TO GREATER POLARIZATION AS BETWEEN COLORED POLITICAL LEADERS AND THE GOVERNMENT. GAMON

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